

Plants and Temperature (Microclimate)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Comprehension Workbook 2

Plants and Temperature (Microclimate)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Weather around the world

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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Unit 2: Plants and Temperature

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Plants and Temperature

Temperatures can affect plants and animals as well as us. Here is a story of how it affects some plants in a garden.

“In a large, sunny garden there were many plants. Some were old and gnarled and others were young and well tended.

In this garden was a beautiful flower called Petunia. Now Petunia loved the sun, and she thought the early morning was marvellous. But as the sun rose higher in the sky each day, the temperature rose, and Petunia found herself giving off more and more moisture through her leaves.



In the late morning, the gardener came by and gave Petunia some water. After that, she felt much better.

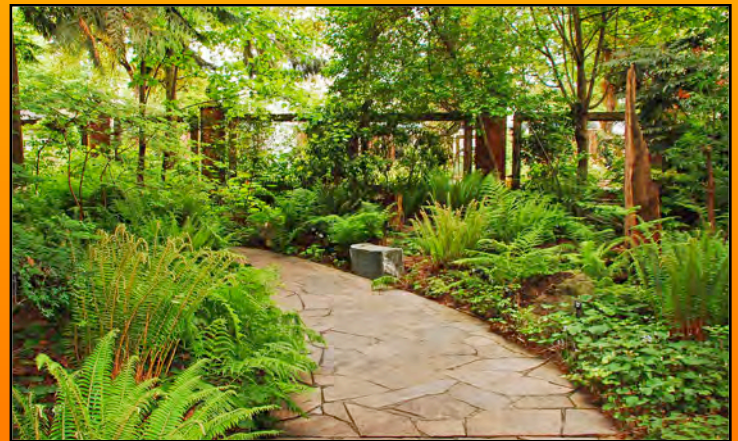
Growing along one wall of the garden was a large plant called Grape vine. Grape vine also loves the sun very much and has very deep roots. In the early afternoon, as the temperature becomes hot, Grape vine uses her long roots to bring water up to her leaves. This is why Grape vine can live in dry places and does not need the gardener to come and water her each day.



Growing in a pot in the garden was Cactus. Cactus does not have any leaves at all. So, In the middle of the afternoon, when it is hot and dry, Cactus does not give off much water. Because of this, she only needs to be watered once a week, even in summer.



Also growing in the garden was a plant called Fern. Fern likes cool, damp places, so she lives in a part of the garden that is in the shade most of the day. The late afternoon is one of Fern's favourite times of day, because the sunlight is not so strong.



Also in the garden was Evening Primrose. To save water, Evening Primrose opens her flowers at night, when it is cool. In the evening, as the sun is going down, Evening Primrose opens her pink and white flowers.





Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'gnarled'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'gnarled' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'gnarled'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'gnarled'.

e Draw a small picture of a piece of a 'gnarled' plant.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: tended	looked after

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences so they follow on throughout the day, starting in the morning.



He planted evening primrose where it could be seen as it opened its flowers as the air cooled down in the evening.

But petunias soon use up their water and so he had to water them by afternoon.

He had planted ferns where there was shade from the hot afternoon sun.

So he had planted petunias in full morning sun.

He had planted vines on a wall so they could get the hot afternoon sun.

The gardener had planted every plant where it would do best at different times of the day.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 What is Petunia's favourite time of day?

2 What is Fern's favourite time of day?

3 Where does Cactus grow?

4 When does Evening Primrose open her flowers?

5 When did Petunia get some water?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why doesn't Cactus lose much water?

2 How do Grape Vines roots help her?

3 Why does Evening Primrose open her flowers at night?

4 Why does Fern live in a shady part of the garden?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



- 1 What do you think would happen to the plants in the garden if there were a lot of rain?
- 2 Do you think the plants in this garden like warm weather or cold weather best?
- 3 Which of the plants do you think would grow best in a hot desert?
- 4 Which of the plants do you think would grow best in a cool, wet climate?
- 5 Why do you think Petunia gives off more water as the sun rises higher in the sky?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Adapting plants

How has the gardener placed his plants in the garden so that they have conditions to which they are best suited?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Planting a Garden

You look out the window at your garden. It is a mess, full of weeds and not well tended. You decide you are going to plant some plants and make the garden look like the one in this picture.

(Now describe how you make a nice garden in a sunny spot, the plants you use and where you would plant them...)

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